

### **DETAILED ACTION**

1. The applicant's amendments to the specification, filed on 9/14/09, has been entered.

### ***Reasons for Allowance***

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art of record fails to teach or render obvious a filter system comprising, inter alia, a guide tip defining a guidewire lumen; an elongated wire attached to a proximal portion of said guide tip; an embolic protection filter disposed along the elongated wire; and an elongated tubular member defining a first lumen adapted to receive the elongated wire and a second, generally parallel lumen having proximal and distal ports, adapted to receive the guidewire; and when the embolic protection filter is collapsed in part within the distal sheath, a portion of the guidewire within the second lumen of the elongated tubular member adjacent the distal port of the second lumen is generally coplanar with a portion of the guidewire within the guidewire lumen of the guide tip, a portion of the elongated wire within the first lumen of the elongated tubular member adjacent the distal end of the first lumen, and the point of attachment of the elongated wire to the guide tip.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Darwin P. Erezzo whose telephone number is (571)272-4695. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8:00-4:30).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jackie Ho can be reached on (571) 272-4696. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Darwin P. Erezzo/  
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3773